

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Poplar Grove School
2959 Del Rio Pike
Franklin, TN 37069

www.fssd.org/pgsweb/green_news.html



PGS Programs Reduce Hazardous Waste

The Member

Poplar Grove School is a community of creative and compassionate learners committed to continuous improvement. Poplar Grove was built on and named for the home site of Abram Maury, one of Franklin's founding fathers. We are a kindergarten through eighth grade balanced calendar school that opened in July 2000. We have over 1,100 students and faculty. Poplar Grove School is committed to caring for the environment. Students are involved in activities that conserve, enhance and protect our school and community.

The Story

Through the School Environment Evaluation process, science teachers identified the need to inventory PGS science lab chemicals. This assessment led to identification and proper disposal of outdated and unnecessary lab chemicals.

The TDEC Division of Solid Waste Management announced that batteries would no longer be accepted from schools at the HHW events, so a PGS battery collection program had to include a means of disposal. Research provided information on the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation collection program. The Middle School Green Team expanded our award-winning recycling program to include rechargeable batteries and cell phones. This new program was promoted through our online newsletters, Green Webpage, school-wide environmental assembly and PGS video announcements. Collection boxes were placed in the elementary and middle school administrative offices, and protocols for packaging rechargeable batteries were followed.

Poplar Grove families were made aware of HHW Day through our online school newsletters and Green Webpage. Families were provided with a list of hazardous household items and encouraged to properly dispose of these through HHW Day. The Green Team also provided PGS families with information on non-hazardous household cleaning products and methods as a safer alternative, as well as a means of reducing the accumulation of hazardous materials in the home.

The Success

Old chemicals from the 7th and 8th grade science labs were disposed of properly. Poplar Grove Green Team

members worked as Keep Williamson Beautiful volunteers during the fall and spring HHW cleanup.

Over 60 rechargeable batteries were sent in from home and collected from the FSSD Maintenance Dept. Mrs. Cook's 6th grade and Mrs. Ayer's 8th grade science classes learned about batteries and the importance of recycling through use of the National Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's curriculum. Mrs. Webb's 7th graders compiled research papers on rechargeable battery recycling and non-hazardous household cleaning alternatives that can be viewed on the PGS Green Webpage.

This year, PGS was awarded Keep Williamson Beautiful's Best Overall Environmental Program and Tennessee Recycling Coalition's K-12 School Recycler of the Year.



The Pollution Prevented

The school and community were protected by proper disposal of 2 gallons of diluted old lab chemicals. The newly established rechargeable battery collection program ensured that over 60 rechargeable batteries were taken to a local RBRC collection location, keeping metals and acids out of our landfills. Thirty-seven cell phones were also recycled. Students learned about hazardous substances in homes, and PGS families were provided with information for safer home cleaning alternatives.

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